

# **Erie County Fire Advisory Board**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **July 28, 2005**

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by Deputy Chairman Douglas Larkin at 7:30 pm.

**Roll Call:**

Chairman Gerald Wittington	Excused	Co-Chairman Douglas Larkin	Present
Sec./Treasurer John Wicka	Present	Dennis Allen	Present
Bruce Atkins	Present	Charles Bethge	Present
William Boldt	Excused	Daniel Carrier	Present
Todd Catalano	Absent	James Carr	Present
Donald Connolly	Present	Michael D'Orazio	Absent
Keith Dillingham	Present	Michael Gates	Absent
Dennis Gibbs	Absent	Christopher Higgins	Present
Daniel Kamman	Present	James Lawida	Absent
Richard Litfin	Absent	Richard Mariani	Present
Robert Mueller	Present	Edward Saternus	Absent
Tony Schueckler	Excused	Charles Stewart	Absent
William Szewc	Absent		

**Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting** The minutes of the previous minutes were reviewed and K. Dillingham made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. J. Carr seconded the motion, which was duly voted on and carried.

**Reading of Correspondence:** None

**Officer Reports:**

**Chairman's Report:** Nothing to report.

**Co-Chairman's Report:** Nothing to report.

**Secretary's Report:** Outgoing secretary R. Mueller reported he turned over all the records to the new secretary. J. Wicka circulated a contact sheet and asked all members to update contact information including e-mail addresses. He advised it is his intention to send the minutes and meeting announcements as much as possible by e-mail. This will save in printing and postage.

**Commissioner's & Committee Reports**

**Deputy Commissioner's Report:** Deputy Coordinator Tiger Schmitendorf reported on behalf of Commissioner Walters and Deputy Commissioner McCullough on the following:

- The recently completed Firefighter 1 Boot Camp was considered a great success. 44 attendees started the program and 42 finished representing 25 fire companies. See the attached report for complete details. As part of his report, he showed a video presentation prepared by one of the attendees. He commented that the attendees had a lot of fun and laughter and became real close due to the experience. Another camp will be planned for July 10-22, 2006.
- In response to a question about where the county now stands with people needing Firefighter 1, he advised that there are ten (10) FF1 courses scheduled and another to start in Getzville in September. This should bring us to about 240 new firefighters. This is a great number compared where we were at the start of the year. We are challenged in that 3 or 4 instructors are already beyond their required teaching hours for the year and requests are coming in for other courses. Courses will be scheduled for dates after September 1.
- He reminded all members to take back to their respective organizations that Intermediate Firefighter course ends this fall.
- The Pump Operator Course will be preceded by an EVOC inasmuch as EVOC is a pre-requisite to Pump Operations.

**School Committee:** Dan Carrier reported that the Erie County Volunteer Firemen's Association will be hosting a Response to Terrorism School in May 2006. This training will simulate the London bombings.

**Drill Towers Committee:** No report.

**Radio Committee:** K. Dillingham reported that he had a conversation with Millgrove chief who was upset as a result of a discussion he had with Deputy Commissioner McCullough regarding his displeasure with an inappropriate message that was broadcast by Lancaster Fire Control. The Chief felt that this issue should have been addressed to D-8 and not with the individual dispatcher. D-8 was contacted and confirmed that the message was inappropriate but wanted the issue of how the matter was handled noted in the FAB minutes.

There was a brief discussion that it may be worthwhile for the Radio Committee to review the general message policy to determine if changes are needed in order to make it more clear and understandable.

**Legislation & Fire Prevention:** J. Wicka distributed a copy of proposed state legislation effecting junior firefighters and a proposal allowing them to respond to emergency calls. He felt that this may have more to do with non-explorer departments or it may be proposed to codify explorer activities.

**Budget & Wall of Fame:** Tiger reported that they are still waiting for criteria definition, feedback and a list of nominees from the FAB. There was a brief discussion as to whether firefighters who died in the line of duty would be added to the wall and it was decided this would be appropriate.

There was also a brief discussion concerning a recent Buffalo News article stating the training facility was being named in honor of a deceased Buffalo firefighter. It was advised that it appears this is a reference to Buffalo's new training facility and not the Cheektowaga facility.

**Rules & Mutual Aid:** Don Connolly reported he spoke recently with union president Joe Foley and was advised that it appears that nothing will be done with the City of Buffalo Mutual Aid Agreement until the new administration is in place next year.

**Erie County Chiefs:** No report.

**Erie County Vol. Firemen's Assoc.:** Dan Carrier reported there was confusion as to if the firefighter from Doyle who recently passed away had his paperwork into the 100 Club and whether the club was contacted after he passed away. It was later learned that they were not contacted and steps were taken to put the family in touch with the club. As a result, it is expected that the benefits will be paid to the family of the deceased firefighter. Dan encouraged all to advise their departments and organizations to make sure the 100 Club forms are completed and given to them in case a firefighter dies in the line of duty. This will assist in have the autopsy done and benefits processed. The telephone number for the 100 Club is 688-8888.

**Fire District Officers:** No report

**Fire Police:** No report

### Old Business

**Firemen's Home on the Hudson:** Dan Carrier reported that the foundation for the new home is laid and about 25% of construction is done. The project is expected to be completed next year.

### New Business

**New Committee Assignments:** D. Larkin advised that he and the new Chairman will discuss new committee assignments and chairmanships and they expect to report this next month.

**Radio Policy and By-Laws:** R. Mariani asked if he could get a copy of the radio policy and the FAB By-laws. The secretary advised he will work on getting this information to all new members who came on the FAB within the last year.

**Reappointment Letters:** D. Larkin reminded everyone to get their letters of reappointment in as soon as possible.

**Treasurer's Report:** J. Wicka advised the balance prior to the meeting was \$388.24 and an tonight's receipts were \$13, for a total of \$401.24.

**Good of the Organization:**      Nothing to report

**Adjournment**    With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20

Respectfully submitted  
John R. Wicka  
Secretary/Treasurer



## County of Erie

JOEL A. GIAMBRA  
County Executive

MICHAEL V. WALTERS  
Commissioner

JAMES M. McCULLOUGH  
Deputy Commissioner  
Fire Safety

### DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

#### **Division of Fire Safety**

3359 Broadway – Cheektowaga NY 14227  
716/ 681-7111 – FAX/681-3645  
[www.erie.gov/fire](http://www.erie.gov/fire)

EARL R. SCHMITTENDORF  
Deputy Fire Coordinator

## Fire Safety Division Report for the Fire Advisory Board July 28, 2005

### TRAINING:

- Boot Camp ran as scheduled July 11-22
  - Huge success by all accounts
  - Started course with (44) recruits and a graduated a total of (42) firefighters from (25) different fire companies
  - Orientation held June 6 definitely paid off with those students being better prepared than those who did not attend
  - Formal graduation ceremony was attended by over 100 people on Friday – July 22 at 7pm in the Auditorium at the TOC
  - Overwhelming response of apparatus and operators for the hands-on evolutions
  - Planning next Boot Camp for July 10-22, 2006
    - Plan to increase number of SFIs and integrate national certification testing
- We will be meeting with the SFIs week of August 8th to schedule fall courses. Would like to restart advanced courses in fall once backlog is addressed.
- Refresher training continues as scheduled. Extremely positive feedback from those who have taken advantage of this training opportunity.
- We have not been informed that Erie County Fire Chiefs have received a contract or check as of yet from NYS Senator Volker's office. Paperwork is being processed for rehiring county instructors. Still waiting on applications from two instructors.

**FACILITIES:**

- Cheektowaga: Received donation of (6) 700 lb. rolls of hay for burn evolutions
- Cheektowaga: New Class 'A' burn pit working well
- Have secured arrangement with Rusiniak's Towing & Recovery for prepping, delivering and retrieving autos for car fires. They prepped and delivered (5) cars for boot camp.
- Working with NYSDOCS to build forcible entry door simulator(s)
- All other facilities available for use

**BUDGET:**

- Preparing 2006 Department Budget
- Requesting \$50k instructor budget line item reinstatement and restoration of operational budget funding
- Send letters of support to county executive

**WALL OF FAME:**

- Still waiting for criteria definition, feedback, list of honorees from Fire Advisory Board

**800MHZ COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Commissioner Walters and CPS Commissioner Kevin Comerford traveling to Albany next week to further discussions with Statewide Wireless Program
- NYS Police have been visiting, scoping out space in Public Safety Campus for their operations

**PLEASE NOTE:**

All other materials and information are available for download at our web site: [www.erie.gov/fire](http://www.erie.gov/fire)